

DANIEL CHAPTER 2

Chapter 2

2:1 And in the second year *[according to Chaldean reckoning]* of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him.

2:2 Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers *[Deut 18:9-12 Pharmakea; drugs]*, and the Chaldeans *[a sect of philosophers who make psychic divinations etc; similar to magicians and astrologers]*, for to show the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.

2:3 And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream.

2:4 Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack *[language of ancient Syria]*, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will show the interpretation.

2:5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill.

2:6 But if ye show the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore show me the dream, and the interpretation thereof.

2:7 They answered again and said, Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will show the interpretation of it.

2:8 The king answered and said, I know of certainty that ye would gain the time, because ye see the thing is gone from me.

2:9 But if ye will not make known unto me the dream, [there is but] one decree for you: for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me, till the time be changed: therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that ye can show me the interpretation thereof.

2:10 The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can show the king's matter: therefore [there is] no king, lord, nor ruler, [that] asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean.

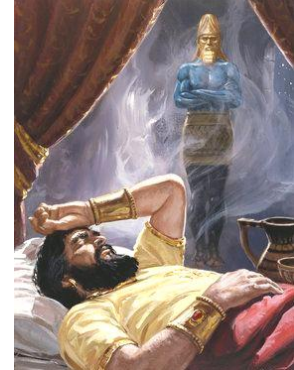
2:11 And [it is] a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can show it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.

2:12 For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise [men] of Babylon.

2:13 And the decree went forth that the wise [men] should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.

The Great Image

Daniel was carried into captivity in the first year of Nebuchadnezzar.



Job 33:13-17 purpose of dreams

1 Cor 2:14, 15 natural man verses spiritual in discernment

Before Babylon was on the scene, Egypt was the educational center of the world and Joseph (a youth) taught the Egyptian senators.

1 Tim 4:12 despise not thy youth

Verse 11

An implied acknowledgement that they had no communication with these gods.

Verse 12

The king saw they were being made the victims of deception.

VERSE 13

Decree made in 2nd year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign. This was still during the lifetime of Jehoiakim, king of Judah.

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2:14 Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise [men] of Babylon:

2:15 He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why [is] the decree [so] hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel.

2:16 Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would show the king the interpretation.

2:17 Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions:

2:18 That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise [men] of Babylon.

2:19 Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision *[anything that is seen through dreams or visions]*. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. **[Amos 3:7]**

2:20 Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:

2:21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

2:22 He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what [is] in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

2:23 I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast [now] made known unto us the king's matter.

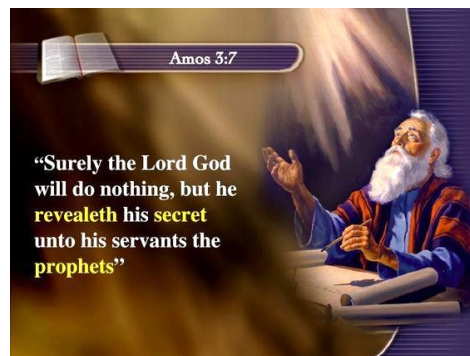
2:24 Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise [men] of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise [men] of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will show unto the king the interpretation.

2:25 Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation.

2:26 The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name [was] Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof?

2:27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise [men], the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, show unto the king;

God reveals secrets to his prophets
Prov 3:25, 26 be not afraid



VERSE 23

Let no mercy from the hand of God fail of its due return of thanksgiving and praise. **Luke 17:16,17**. Daniel thanked God first for answering his prayer before going to the king to see if this dream was so.

Ps 25:12-14 Secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him
Ps 119:99-100 understand more than ancients, because I kept thy precepts.



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In one night, God revealed the history of over 2500 years

2:28 But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

2:29 As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came [into thy mind] upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass.

2:30 But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for [any] wisdom that I have more than any living, but for [their] sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.

2:31 Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness [was] excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof [was] terrible.

2:32 This image's head [was] of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, [\[Dan 7:3-5\]](#)

2:33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.

2:34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet [that were] of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

2:35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain [\[mountains denote kingdoms Dan 2:35, 44; Jer. 51:25\]](#), and filled the whole earth.

2:36 This [is] the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.

2:37 Thou, O king, [art] a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.

2:38 And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou [\[Babylon 677-538 BC\]](#) [art] this head of gold.

2:39 And after thee shall arise another kingdom [\[Medo-Persia 538- 331BC\]](#) inferior [\[in wealth, luxury & magnificence to Babylon\]](#) to thee, and another third kingdom of brass [\[Greece; Arbela in 331BC; ruled 331- 168/158 BC\]](#), which shall bear rule over all the earth.

2:40 And the fourth kingdom [\[Rome Pagan; Battle of Pydna 168 BC; ruled 168 BC- 508/538 AD\]](#) shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all



VERSE 36-38

The principle event under the Babylonish Empire was the captivity of the children of Israel.

Babylon ruled 677-538 BC – (ruled for 140 years *W. Miller*)

VERSE 39

The principle event under the Medo-Persian kingdom was the restoration of Israel to their own land.

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[things]: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.

2:41 And whereas thou sawest the **feet and toes**, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the **iron** mixed with miry **clay**. *[feet & toes of the feet: 10 division of Western Roman Empire between 356 AD & 483 AD. Clay mixed with iron = union of church and state]*

2:42 And [as] the **toes of the feet** [were] part of iron, and part of clay, [so] the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.

2:43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay *[mankind]*, **they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another**, even as iron is not mixed with clay.

2:44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom *[Facts about a future kingdom: Matt 26:29; 25:31-34; Acts 1:6; 14:22; 1Cor 15:50; Ja 2:5; Lu 12:32; 2Tim 4:1]*, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, [but] it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. *[Dan 7:22]*

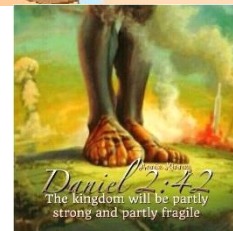
2:45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream [is] certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

2:46 Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him.

2:47 The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth [it is], that your God [is] a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret. *[Isa 60:3-5]*

2:48 Then the king made Daniel a great man *[king gave him riches & power]*, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise [men] of Babylon. *[Jer 9:23, 24; 27:7]*

2:49 Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel [sat] in the gate *[the place where counsels were held & matters were deliberated upon]* of the king. *[Daniel became chief counselor to the king]*



VERSE 43

Charlemagne, Charles V, Louis XIV, and Napoleon all tried to **reunite the broken fragments of the Roman Empire, but failed**. By marriage and intermarriage ties have been formed with a view to strengthening and cementing together the shattered kingdom; but not have succeeded. The element of disunion remains. Many **political revolutions** and **territorial changes** have occurred in Europe since **the fall of the Roman Empire in 476 A.D.**; but its divided state still remains. *Bible Readings for the Home Circle, R&H, 1888*

VERSES 44-45

Christ's everlasting kingdom will be established when He shall come in His glory with all His holy angels, **Matthew 25:31-34**.

Babylon will fall: Isa 21:9; Rev 14:8; Jer 51:17; Isa 14:4; Rev 18:16, 17



"The King answered Daniel, and said, 'Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret'" (Daniel 2:47, NKJV)

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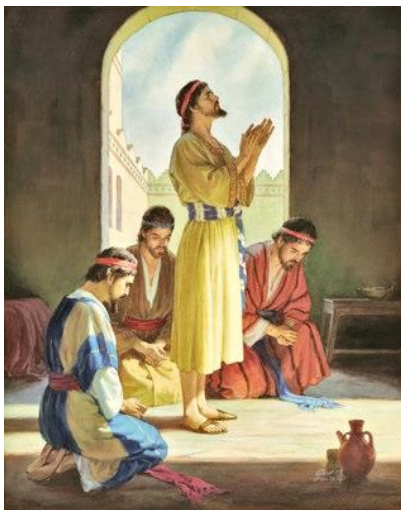
1 And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him. **2** Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.

In the providence of God, Daniel would be brought to the attention of the kingdom throughout the land. The magicians employed superstitious rites and the ceremonies of fortune tellers and such. Sorcerers were those who communicated with evil spirits impersonating the dead.

3 And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream. **4** Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation. **5** The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill. **6** But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof. **7** They answered again and said, Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation of it. **8** The king answered and said, I know of certainty that ye would gain the time, because ye see the thing is gone from me. **9** But if ye will not make known unto me the dream, *there is but* one decree for you: for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me, till the time be changed: therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that ye can shew me the interpretation thereof. **10** The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore *there is* no king, lord, nor ruler, *that* asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean. **11** And *it is* a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh. **12** For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise *men* of Babylon. **13** And the decree went forth that the wise *men* should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.



Nebuchadnezzar's demand that his magicians reveal the dream was reasonable because of their claims to be all knowing in such things. When the magicians could not reveal the dream, the whole system was exposed as fraudulent.



14 Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise *men* of Babylon: **15** He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, *Why is* the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel. **16** Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation. **17** Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions: **18** That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise *men* of Babylon.

With their own lives at stake Daniel and his companions sought relief. They united in their pleading for the mercy of God concerning the secret of the king's dream.

19 Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. **20** Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: **21** And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: **22** He

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revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what *is* in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him. 23 I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast *now* made known unto us the king's matter.

It was in a night vision that God answered their prayers. Daniel immediately offered up praise to God for His gracious revelation of the king's dream. He also acknowledged his companions prayers by saying, "what we desired of Thee", and Thou has made it "known us".

24 Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise *men* of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise *men* of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation.

Daniel's first plea was for the wise men of Babylon—what remarkable character is this? Destroy them not, for the king's secret has been revealed, he implored. Daniel was anxious that they should also benefit from the mercy God had shown him.

25 Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation. 26 The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof? 27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise *men*, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king; 28 But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

Daniel declared plainly that the wise men, the astrologers, the soothsayers and the magicians could not make known this secret because it was beyond their power. The prophet made known the true God as the One who is the revealer of secrets.

29 As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came *into thy mind* upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass. 30 But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for *any* wisdom that I have more than any living, but for *their* sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.

By this one act of revealing the king's dream, God brought to the Chaldean nation the knowledge of the Living God.

31 Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. 32



This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, 33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. 34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet *that were* of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. 35 Then was the iron,

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the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

Below this head of gold was a body composed of inferior metals descending in value until they reached their basest form in the feet and toes of iron mingled with miry clay. There were to be but four universal kingdoms who ruled the earth, all these have passed. The mixture of the iron and clay of the feet of the statue show that while Nations may form alliances, one with another, there will never again be one universal world power. God revealed to the children of men, to us, that earthly kingdoms are to pass away and earthly greatness and glory will fade and vanish.

36 This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. 37 Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. 38 And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.

Eight short verses of the bible embrace the history of this world. It is so comprehensive it gives us the great outlines of earthly kingdoms from that time to this. The kingdoms which were to follow would be inferior to the great golden age of Babylon. Babylon, besieged by Cyrus, was overthrown in 538 BC; Darius the Median took the kingdom.

39 And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.

Nebuchadnezzar was overthrown by the Medeo-Persia in 538 BC, just as the vision of the statue had predicted; who in turn were overthrown by Greece in BC 331. Rome would follow in due time.

40 And the fourth kingdom [Rome] shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.

Rome conquered Greece in 168 BC but did not become a universal world power until 31 BC. The head of gold was Babylon. The breast and arms of silver were Medo-Persia, the sides of brass were Greece. The legs of iron denoted the fourth and final ruler of the then known world, Rome. The feet and ten toes represent the collapse of Rome, which began in 330 AD, 360 years after first rising. Rome would collapse into ten independent nations beginning in 351 AD and this was completed in 476 AD. These would not cleave one to another. There will never again be one universal world power. The "whole world" wondering after the "beast" (Revelation 13:3) is an alliance of the world's Nations with a common goal to oppose and persecute God's people. While at the same time, each will retain its individual sovereignty. All nations and powers will come to their end when Christ returns to set up His everlasting Kingdom.

41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the



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iron mixed with miry clay. 42 And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.

When Rome was divided into ten kingdoms it lost the iron strength it had possessed during the first centuries of its career. The image of Daniel 2 is parallel with the four beasts of Daniel 7. The fourth beast represents the same kingdom as the legs of iron on the image. The ten toes of the image are also the ten horns of the beast. These ten horns (ten toes) are symbolic of the ten kingdoms that would result from the fall of Rome. The ten kingdoms formed between 351 and 476 AD. Daniel uses the words “kings” and “kingdoms” to basically mean the same thing.

43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.

The iron was mixed with clay, and lost the power of cohesion. God said, “They shall not cleave one to another”. Rome was to be the last universal world power in earth’s history. There will never again be a “one world” kingdom.



44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. 45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

Christ’s everlasting kingdom will be established when He shall come in His glory with all His holy angels, Matthew 25:31-34.

46 Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him. 47 The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret. 48 Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon. 49 Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.

While the soothsayers and astrologers waited in silent awe and wonder, Daniel revealed the future to the king, who fulfilled his promise of reward and made Daniel a great man in the kingdom. He was made ruler over the province of Babylon and chief of the governors over all the wise men (the Magi) of Babylon.

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Christ's Everlasting Kingdom

*And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever;
and of his kingdom there shall be no end.*

Luke 1:33

That it shall be eternal: he shall reign forever, and of his kingdom there shall be no end, as there had been long since of the temporal reign of David's house, and would shortly be of the state of Israel. Other crowns endure not to every generation, but Christ's doth.

The gospel is the last dispensation,
we are to look for no other.



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	<p>GOLD</p>	<p>BABYLONIAN EMPIRE 605-539 BC THE LION</p> <p>Dan. 2:1 And in the second reign of Nebuchadnezzar, he dreamed dreams, where with his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him.</p> <p>31. Thou, O King, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible.</p> <p>32. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass.</p> <p>33. His legs of iron, his feet part of iron, part of clay.</p> <p>38. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beast of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.</p>
	<p>SILVER</p>	<p>MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE 539-331 BC THE BEAR</p> <p>39. And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee,</p> <div> </div>
	<p>BRASS</p>	<p>GRECIAN EMPIRE 331-168 BC THE LEOPARD</p> <p>39. And another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.</p> <p>Alexander the Greek</p> <div> </div>
	<p>IRON</p>	<p>ROMAN EMPIRE 168 BC-AD 476 THE DRAGON</p> <p>40. And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.</p> <div> <p>Julius Augustus Tiberius Caligula Nero Titus</p> </div>
	<p>IRON & CLAY</p>	<p>DIVIDED KINGDOMS HEADED BY REVIVED ROMAN EMPIRE; AMERICA. AD 476 - 2ND AVENT</p> <p>41. And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potter's clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.</p> <p>42. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.</p> <p>43. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.</p> <p>DANIEL 2:32-32</p>

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will go free from all bondage, even from death, and the last enemy conquered, the remnant out of all nations saved, the New Jerusalem completed, the saints glorified. {1842 WiM, MWV1 46.1}

World Empires Revealed

1. The Reason God Sent Israel to Babylon.

Stephan N Haskell, The Story of Daniel, pg. 32

Not only the power, but the wisdom also, of Nebuchadnezzar was exceedingly great. The king favored education, and during his reign Babylon was the educational center of the world.

Uriah Smith, 1897, Daniel and the Revelation, pg. 25, 26

Such was God's passing testimony against sin. Not that the Chaldeans were the favorites of Heaven but God made use of them to punish the iniquities of His people.

2. Why Are Earthly Civil Powers Identified in the Bible?

E. J. Waggoner, Present Truth UK, June 1, 1899

It is God's idea that His people shall be the head and not the tail. Deuteronomy 28:13. In taking the Israelites out of Egypt into the Promised Land, the design was to make them a light to all she world, for Palestine was the highway of travel between all nations. By coming in contact with them, all nations would learn of the true God. For a time they were true to their trust, but later because of their iniquities, they were carried away captives to Babylon, yet even while captives in a strange land, God through them gave the light, for the light must be given. Just so to-day, the Lord has a message to give, light for the children of men, and to each one of us individually in his place, He grants the privilege of helping to give this light and truth. If we refuse, God will give the privilege to some one else, for now as in olden time, the light must be given. To embrace the opportunity, is to become a co-worker with Christ, a joint heir with Him in that kingdom "which shall never be destroyed." To refuse means death and eternal destruction. There is nothing arbitrary about it,—it is a question of choice,—and every one is left free to accept or reject. "To-day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your heart."

Stephan N Haskell, The Story of Daniel, pg. 33

The Scriptures give the story in language that can be readily understood. But why did God give Nebuchadnezzar a dream? How could the God of heaven reveal truth to this heathen king? Doubtless He could not during his waking moments; but Nebuchadnezzar had contemplated the glory of his kingdom, and fell asleep with a longing desire to know its future. He knew that life was short. Soon he must die; what would the future be? It was God's opportunity, and while those eyes were closed to earthly things; while self was lost—dead, as it were—the future history of the world was spread before Nebuchadnezzar.

Ellen White, Youth's Instructor, February 2, 1904

The dream of the great image, by which were opened future events reaching to the end of time, was given to Nebuchadnezzar that he might understand the part he was to act in the world's history, and also the relation that his kingdom sustained to the kingdom of heaven. This wonderful dream caused a marked change in his ideas and opinions, and for a little time he was influenced by the fear of God; but his heart was not yet cleansed from its pride, its worldly ambition, its desire for self-exaltation.

Uriah Smith, 1897, Daniel and the Revelation, pg. 33

The magicians were such as practiced magic, using the term in its bad sense; that is, they practiced all the superstitious rites and ceremonies of fortune-tellers, casters of nativities, etc. Astrologers were men who pretended to foretell future events by the study of the stars. The science, or the superstition, of astrology was extensively cultivated by the Eastern nations of antiquity. Sorcerers were such as pretended to hold communication with the dead. In this sense, we believe, it is always used in the Scriptures. Modern Spiritualism is simply ancient heathen sorcery revived. The Chaldeans here mentioned were a sect of philosophers similar to the magicians and astrologers, who made psychic, divinations, etc., their study.

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Ellen White, The Ministry of Healing, pg. 243

The theory of mind controlling mind was originated by Satan, to introduce himself as the chief worker, to put human philosophy where divine philosophy should be. Of all the errors that are finding acceptance among professedly Christian people, none is a more dangerous deception, none more certain to separate man from God, than is this.

Ellen White, General Conference Daily Bulletin, February 18, 1897

God has illuminated human intellects, and poured a flood of light on the world through discoveries in art and science. But those who view these from a merely human standpoint will most assuredly come to wrong conclusions. The thorns of error, skepticism, and infidelity are disguised by being covered with the garments of philosophy and science. Satan has devised this ingenious manner of winning souls away from the living God, away from the truth and religion. He exalts nature above nature's Creator.

Uriah Smith, 1897, Daniel and the Revelation, pg. 33

All these sects or professions abounded in Babylon. The end aimed at by each was the same; namely, the explaining of mysteries and the foretelling of future events, the principal difference between them being the means by which they sought to accomplish their object. The king's difficulty lay equally within the province of each to explain; hence he summoned them all. With the king it was an important matter. He was greatly troubled, and therefore concentrated upon the solution of his perplexity the whole wisdom of his realm.

Stephan N Haskell, The Story of Daniel, pg. 34

That the pretended knowledge of the wise men of Babylon might be exposed, the Lord had in His providence given Nebuchadnezzar this dream, and then allowed him to forget the details, while causing him to retain a vivid impression of the vision.

Stephan N Haskell, The Story of Daniel, pg. 36

The schools of Babylon developed pride, love of pleasure, haughtiness, and self-esteem. They fostered an aristocracy, and cultivated the spirit of oppression and slavery. Contrast with this the native simplicity, the courtesy, gentleness, and self-forgetfulness of the child of God as he enters the court and is introduced by Arioch.

Stephan N Haskell, The Story of Daniel, pg. 37

In one night God revealed the history of over twenty-five hundred years, and what the human historian requires volumes to explain is given in fifteen verses. The Scriptures explain themselves, and in divine records every word is well chosen and put in the proper setting.

Why is it important that we understand our History as a people; especially concerning prophecy interpretation?

Stephan N Haskell, The Story of Daniel, pg. 37, 38

In the image revealed to Nebuchadnezzar, the glory of the Babylonian kingdom is recognized by the Lord, and represented by the head of gold. But while giving due credit to the present state of things, the spirit of prophecy with equal candor points out to the self-exalted king the weakness of the institutions in which he has placed his trust, and the inability of the Babylonian learning to save from impending destruction.

Stephan N Haskell, The Story of Daniel, pg. 39

The clay mixed with iron also denoted the union of church and state. This combination is peculiar to the latter part of the world's history, to the feet and toes of the image. Religion was the basis of government in the heathen nations; there could be no separation of the church and the state. When apostate Christianity united with the state, each remained in a sense distinct as the miry clay is separate from iron.

Stephan N Haskell, The Story of Daniel, pg. 39

The union continues until the stone smites the image upon the feet. The very fact that the "stone was cut out of the mountain without hands," shows that the last kingdoms on earth will not be overthrown by any earthly power, but that the God of heaven will bring upon them final destruction by giving them to the burning flames.

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Stephan N Haskell, The Story of Daniel, pg. 40

When Daniel gave the interpretation, he was certain that he could accept it as a true prophecy from the God of heaven. The vision had deeply affected the king, and when the meaning was given, he fell upon his face before Daniel in wonder and humility, and said, "Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldst reveal this secret." The youth of twenty-one was made ruler over all the provinces of Babylon, and chief governor over all the wise men of the kingdom. Daniel's companions were also given high positions in the government. ... It was in the providence of God that His people should carry the light of truth to all the heathen nations.

Stephan N Haskell, The Story of Daniel, pg. 41, 42

Having exalted true education, God put Daniel and his companions at the head of that vast empire that the knowledge of the God of heaven might go to the ends of the earth.

God sent by word by His prophet a few years later that, should Zedekiah, king of Judah, deliver himself to the king of Babylon, Jerusalem would not be burned, and the world would receive the light of the gospel.

Jer 38:17,18

The sins of ancient Babylon will be repeated to-day. Her educational system is the one now generally accepted; her government, with its excessive taxes, its exaltation of the rich and the oppression of the poor, its pride, arrogance, love of display, **its choice of the artificial in place of the natural**, and **the exaltation of the god of science instead of the God of heaven**, is the one toward which the world of to-day is hastening.

Stephan N Haskell, The Story of Daniel, pg. 42

Only a few—four out of thousands—were true to these principles in the days of Daniel. **How will it be to-day?**

The Question must ring in each of Our Ears!

How Will We Be?

Will We Be Self-less and Humble always before God?

Will We Desire to lift the down trodden?

Will We Serve God Whole Heartedly?

Proven Prophecy With History

Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, pg. 46

The kingdom of Babylon, which finally developed into the golden head of the great historic image, was founded by Nimrod, the great-grandson of Noah, over two thousand years before Christ.

Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, pg. 46

In 606 B.C. Babylon came in contact with the people of God, when Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem and led Judah into captivity. It comes at this point, consequently, into the field of prophecy, at the end of Jewish theocracy.

Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, pg. 47

Never before saw the earth a city like that; never since has it seen its equal. And there, with the whole earth prostrate at her feet, a queen in peerless grandeur, drawing from the pen of inspiration itself this glowing title, "the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency," sat this city, fit capital of that kingdom which constituted **the golden head of this great historic image**. Such was Babylon, with Nebuchadnezzar, in the prime of life, bold, vigorous, and accomplished, seated upon its throne, when Daniel entered its impregnable walls to serve a captive for seventy years in its gorgeous palaces. There the children of the Lord, oppressed more than cheered by the glory and prosperity of the land of their captivity, hung their harps on the willows of the sparkling Euphrates, and wept when they remembered Zion.

Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, pg. 47, 48

Into another city, not only Daniel, but all the children of God, from the least to greatest, from the lowest to highest, from first to last, are soon to enter; a city not merely sixty miles in circumference, but fifteen hundred

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miles; a city whose walls are not brick and bitumen, but precious stones and jasper; whose streets are not the stone-paved streets of Babylon, smooth and beautiful as they were, but transparent gold; whose river is not the mournful waters of the Euphrates, but the river of life; whose music is not the sighs and laments of broken-hearted captives, but the thrilling paeans of victory over death and the grave, which ransomed multitudes shall raise; whose light is not the intermittent light of earth, but the unceasing and ineffable glory of God and the Lamb. Into this city they shall enter, not as captives entering a foreign land, but as exiles returning to their father's house; not as to a place where such chilling words as "bondage," "servitude," and "oppression," shall weigh down their spirits, but to one where the sweet words, "home," "freedom," "peace," "purity," "unutterable bliss," and "unending life," shall thrill their bosoms with delight forever and ever. Yea; our mouths shall be filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing, when the Lord shall turn again the captivity of Zion.

Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, pg. 52, 53

The succeeding kingdom, Medo-Persia, is the one which answers to the breast and arms of silver of the great image. It was to be inferior to the preceding kingdom. In what respect inferior? Not in power; for it was its conqueror. Not in extent; for Cyrus subdued all the East from the Aegean Sea to the River Indus, and thus erected the most extensive empire that up to that time had ever existed. But it was inferior in wealth, luxury, and magnificence. Viewed from a Scriptural standpoint, the principal event under the Babylonish empire was the captivity of the children of Israel; so the principal event under the Medo-Persian kingdom was the restoration of Israel to their own land. At the taking of Babylon, B.C. 538, Cyrus, as an act of courtesy, assigned the first place in the kingdom to his uncle, Darius.

But two years afterward, B.C. 536, Darius died; and in the same year also died Cambyses, king of Persia, Cyrus' father. By these events, Cyrus was left sole monarch of the whole empire. In this year, which closed Israel's seventy years of captivity, Cyrus issued his famous decree for the return of the Jews and the rebuilding of their temple.

Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, pg. 54

So few and brief are the inspired words which involved in their fulfilment a change of the world's rulers. In the ever-changing political kaleidoscope, Grecia now comes into the field of vision, to be, for a time, the all absorbing object of attention, as the third of what are called the great universal empires of the earth.

Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, pg. 55

Alexander saw the field cleared of his last formidable foe. Thenceforward he could spend his time in his own manner, now in the enjoyment of rest and pleasure, and again in the prosecution of some minor conquest. With contemptible arrogance, he claimed for himself divine honors.

Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, pg. 56

What kingdom did succeed Grecia in the empire of the world? for the legs of iron denote the fourth kingdom in the series. The testimony of history is full and explicit on this point. One kingdom did this, and one only, and that was Rome. It conquered Grecia; it subdued all things; like iron, it broke in pieces and bruised.

Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, pg. 57

It will be noticed that at first the kingdom is described unqualifiedly as strong as iron. And this was the period of its strength, during which it has been likened to a mighty Colossus, bestriding the nations, conquering everything, and giving laws to the world.

Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, pg. 57

The element of weakness symbolized by the clay, pertained to the feet as well as to the toes. Rome, before its division into ten kingdoms, lost that iron tenacity which it possessed to a superlative degree during the first centuries of its career. Luxury, with its accompanying effeminacy and degeneracy, the destroyer of nations as well as of individuals, began to corrode and weaken its iron sinews, and thus prepared the way for its subsequent disruption into ten kingdoms. The iron legs of the image terminate, to maintain the consistency of the figure, in feet and toes. To the toes, of which there were of course just ten, our attention is called by the explicit mention of them in the prophecy; and the kingdom represented by that portion of the image to which the toes belonged, was finally divided into ten parts.

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Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, pg. 66

With Rome fell the last of the universal empires belonging to the world in its present state. Heretofore the elements of society had been such that it was possible for one nation, rising superior to its neighbors in prowess, bravery, and the science of war, to attach them one after another to its chariot wheels till all were consolidated into one vast empire, and one man seated upon the dominant throne could send forth his will as law to all the nations of the earth. When Rome fell, such possibilities forever passed away. Crushed beneath the weight of its own vast proportions, it crumbled to pieces, never to be united again. The iron was mixed with the clay. Its elements lost the power of cohesion, and no man or combination of men can again consolidate them.

Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, pg. 66

We here reach the climax of this stupendous prophecy; and when Time in his onward flight shall bring us to the sublime scene here predicted, we shall have reached the end of human history. The kingdom of God! Grand provision for a new and glorious dispensation, in which His people shall find a happy terminus of this world's sad, degenerate, and changing career. Transporting change for all the righteous, from gloom to glory, from strife to peace, from a sinful to a holy world, from death to life, from tyranny and oppression to the happy freedom and blessed privileges of a heavenly kingdom! Glorious transition, from weakness to strength, from the changing and decaying to the immutable and eternal!

Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, pg. 70, 71

The stone that smites the image is cut out of the mountain without hands. The margin reads, "Which was not in hand." This shows that the smiting **is not done** by an agent acting for another, not by the church, for instance, in the hands of Christ; but it is a work which the Lord does by His own divine power, without any human agency.

Ellen White, Signs of the Times, June 9, 1887

In all ages of the world truth has been unpopular; for its doctrines are not congenial to the natural mind. The cold professor, the bigot, and the hypocrite are not willing to accept a truth which searches the heart and reprove the life.

Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, pg. 74, 75

The coming kingdom! This ought to be the all-absorbing topic with the present generation. Reader, are you ready for the issue? He who enters this kingdom enters it not merely for such a lifetime as men live in this present state, not to see it degenerate, not to see it overthrown by a succeeding and more powerful kingdom; but he enters it to participate in all its privileges and blessings, and to share its glories forever; for this kingdom is not to "be left to other people." Again we ask you, Are you ready? The terms of heirship are most liberal: "If ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Are you on terms of friendship with Christ, the coming King? Do you love His character? Are you trying to walk humbly in His footsteps, and obey His teachings? If not, read your fate in the cases of those in the parable, of whom it was said, "But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before Me." There is to be no rival kingdom where you can find an asylum if you remain an enemy to this; for this is to occupy all the territory ever possessed by any and all of the kingdoms of this world, past or present. It is to fill the whole earth. Happy are they to whom the rightful Sovereign, the all-conquering King, at last can say, "Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."